

# QUEEN ELIZABETH NEWS



The Queen Elizabeth  
Academy

Proud to be a member of

Erudition Schools Trust



**We Can and We Will**

# Latest News



## Welcome from the Principal

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I would like to extend to you a warm welcome from The Queen Elizabeth Academy. We are an innovative and forward-thinking academy in Atherstone, Warwickshire; providing high quality education for the young people in the surrounding area and further afield.

The Queen Elizabeth Academy is committed to:

*'Securing the highest academic standards through the provision of: outstanding **learning** and **teaching** and student **welfare**'*

We are extremely proud of our partnership with our sponsor, the Erudition Schools Trust, who will be assisting us on our journey towards becoming an "Outstanding" school in the near future.

There will be many exciting times ahead for The Queen Elizabeth Academy; we are the only school in Warwickshire on the Priority Schools Building Programme. Construction, which began this August, of a state-of-the-art new building will be completed in time for the start of the academic year in September 2016. This new provision will allow for students to benefit from cutting-edge technology and resources; further enhancing achievement and allowing them to truly stand out from the crowd.

If you would like to find out more about our academy, our excellent learning and teaching and our plans for the future, please feel free to contact us and we would be delighted to show you around.

I look forward to meeting with you in person at the many school events occurring this term, all of which can be seen on our website. However, should you like to meet with myself, please call Jayne Eustace, PA to the Principal on - 01827 737701.

Dan Watts  
**Acting Principal**

## Assessment Evening - 20 October

On Tuesday 20 October we are inviting parents to school for an Assessment evening, called "New Assessment what does it mean?" With all the changes around Assessment it has been a confusing time for many parents, and this evening will give you some key information and support. There are two sessions

**Year 7: 6.00pm - 6.30pm**

**Years 9/10: 6.45pm - 7.15pm**



## New Build

A huge thank you to local MP and strong supporter of TQeA, Craig Tracey, for agreeing, at short notice, to be part of the ground breaking team. Our thanks also to Lord Storey who joined us on this momentous occasion to celebrate with our school and guests.



## Spelling Bee Final – 16 July 2015

**A great night** – with the winner Kaitlan Hughes!  
Well done Kaitlan and to everyone who participated.



## PIXL London

On 23 September three ex-students travelled down to Westminster, London to be nationally recognised for their excellent examination successes last summer. The three students (emma Jackson, Jade Wittey and Daniel Wale) received a certificate from special guest Levi Roots, a gift voucher and the acclaim of the entire audience. Traveling with them were four current Year 11 students (Daniel Lewis, Billie-Jo Storer, Heaven Sheldon and Liam Dennis) who are hoping to emulate this achievement next year.



We will be participating again this year so that children around the world can have the joy of receiving a gift which they normally wouldn't have at Christmas time.

***Please look out for further details.***

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION - *Progress Reports*

These are documents posted home for all students at various times throughout the school year. They are important documents – please ensure they are kept safe and not destroyed as they will be required for progress evenings and also for college interviews.



# Hug a TA Day!

On 16 September we saw the arrival of National Teaching Assistant Day which is there to celebrate the input of Teaching Assistants to the education of students across the school. We would like to thank our wonderful Teaching Assistants for all the fantastic work they do with our staff and students.



## History Visit to Kenilworth Castle, 29th September 2015

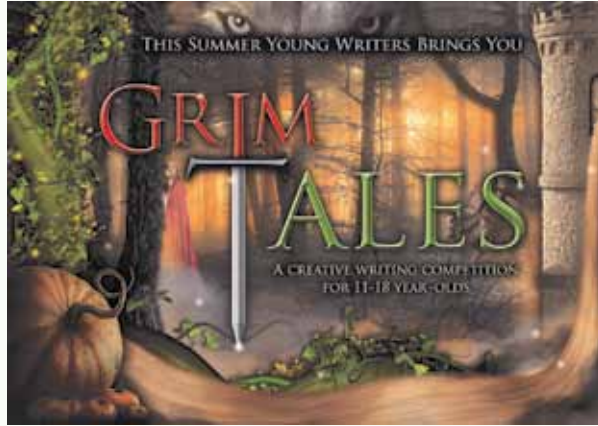
As part of our GCSe course Year 11 students visited Kenilworth Castle. This trip was to aid them in completing coursework on an historical site. We spent the day there studying the ruins and trying to imagine what it would have looked like in all its former majesty. As we walked around Kenilworth Castle we were aware that we were surrounded by 900 years of history. We walked the same paths as some of England's most powerful and influential figures such as the Kings and Queens of Medieval and Tudor England including Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. We studied how the castle changed over time. It was a very interesting trip and we all came away with the necessary knowledge to tackle our coursework.





## News from the Library

The aim of Young Writers is to “encourage children to read, write and enjoy poetry and creative writing; to inspire, enthuse, nurture and motivate young writers.” Here at TQeA we actively encourage pupils to take part in these competitions and see their work published. We now have a copy of the latest book ‘Grim Tales’ in the school library which includes stories by 24 TQeA students. Well done everyone!



## Attendance Awards – Celebration Assembly

At TQeA we take every opportunity to celebrate the many wonderful achievements of our students. It is really important to us in supporting the students' progress and ensuring that all students set the highest of aspirations for themselves, that we give them every opportunity to share their successes with all.



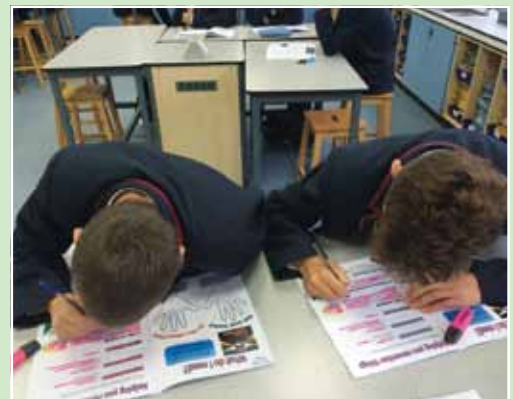
## Learning Support Coffee Morning on 24 September

Learning Support coffee morning was well attended, with family members present for an increasing number of pupils. Parents and Carers were able to discuss any concerns, look at progress and discuss interventions and support that has been offered to their child. We hope to see even more people at our next coffee morning on Thursday 3rd March.



## Revision Starts Early

Year 11 were involved in their revision seminars at the beginning of the school year, where they went through key skills and revision techniques, including mind mapping, image chains and mnemonics. The sessions have been designed to be interactive in order to promote active learning and revision. Students enjoyed the sessions “This has really helped me understand how to revise now” and staff were pleased with the excellent attitude showed by all. Now for the hard work!



# Key Dates 2015-16

## Autumn Term 2015

<b>Monday 7 September</b>	Start of new term for students
<b>Thursday 10 September</b>	Year 7 Photographs
<b>Tuesday 22 September</b>	Open Day/evening
<b>Thursday 24 September</b>	SeN Coffee Morning (10.30-11.15am)
<b>Thursday 15 October</b>	GCSe Success evening
<b>Tuesday 20 October</b>	New Assessment Structure - What does it mean? Year 7: 6-6.30pm Years 9/10: 6.45-7.15pm
<b>Thursday 22 October</b>	Awards evening
<b>Friday 23 October</b>	School closes for half-term holidays

### Monday 26 to Friday 30 October – Half Term Week

<b>Monday 2 November</b>	School reopens for students
<b>Tuesday 10 November</b>	Year 9 Photographs
<b>Thursday 12 November</b>	Year 11 Certificate Evening
<b>Wednesday 18 November</b>	Year 9 and 10 Progress evening
<b>Tuesday 24 November</b>	Spelling Bee Final 6.30pm (note change of date from 25 November)
<b>Friday 27 November</b>	Staff Training Day (school closed to students)
<b>Monday 30 November</b>	GCSE Mock Exams begin (one week)
<b>Thursday 3 December</b>	KS3 Progress evening
<b>Wednesday 16 December</b>	Christmas Concert (evening performance)
<b>Friday 18 December</b>	School breaks up for the Christmas Holidays (early closure 1.05pm TBC)

### Monday 21 December 2015 to Friday 1 January 2016 Christmas Holidays

## Spring Term 2016

<b>Monday 4 January</b>	School reopens for students Year 8 Exams this week
<b>Monday 11 January</b>	Mock Results Day
<b>Wednesday 13 January</b>	Year 11 Progress evening
<b>Monday 18 January</b>	Year 9 Immunisations HPV2
<b>Tuesday 9 February</b>	Staff Training Day (school closed to students)

<b>Wednesday 10 February</b>	KS3 Progress evening
<b>Friday 12 February</b>	School breaks up for the half-term holidays

### Monday 15 to Friday 19 February – Half Term Week

<b>Monday 22 February</b>	School reopens for students
<b>Tuesday 23 February</b>	Year 11 Photographs
<b>Thursday 25 February</b>	Year 8 Options evening
<b>Tuesday 15 March</b>	Year 9, 10 Progress evening
<b>Friday 18 March</b>	School breaks up for the easter Holidays

### Monday 21 March to Friday 1 April – Easter Holidays

## Summer Term 2016

<b>Monday 4 April</b>	Staff Training Day (school closed to students)
<b>Tuesday 5 April</b>	School reopens for students
<b>Monday 25 April</b>	Year 9 Exams this week
<b>Monday 2 May</b>	Bank Holiday
<b>Tuesday 3 May</b>	GCSE Exams begin (prov)
<b>Thursday 19 May</b>	Year 6 Buddy evening
<b>Friday 27 May</b>	School breaks up for half-term holidays

### Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June – Half-Term Week

<b>Monday 6 June</b>	School reopens for students
<b>Monday 20 June</b>	Year 10 Exams this week
<b>Friday 24 June</b>	Year 11 Leavers' Assembly
<b>Monday 27 June</b>	Staff Training Day (school closed to students)
<b>Tuesday 28 June</b>	Year 7 Exams this week
<b>Wednesday 29 June</b>	Year 11 Prom
<b>Monday 4 July</b>	Year 10 Work Experience this week PGL Trip this week
<b>Thursday 7 July</b>	Induction Day/eve and Sports Day
<b>Wednesday 13 July</b>	Sports Awards evening
<b>Friday 22 July</b>	School closes for the Summer Holidays (early closure at 1.05pm TBC)
<b>Thursday 25 August</b>	GCSE Exam Results

# LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME 2015-16

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

**In September 2013, the Government introduced some significant changes to attendance regulations for pupils at school. The regulations will continue to apply during this academic year (2015/2016).**

The most important of these is in relation to term-time leave of absence.

The amendments set out in education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, govern all requests for leave within term-time. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law.

The amended regulations removed references to 'holiday' and 'extended leave', as well as the statutory threshold of 10 school days. It is now clear that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

The Government has not defined 'exceptional circumstances' as referred to in the 2013 regulations. It is for the Head Teacher to decide what he/she views as 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).

Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 education Act 1996.

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

**Warwickshire Secondary School pupils recorded **22,920** half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2013/14. This is a decrease of 13,063 on previous years. This is a positive outcome as it means that 6,531 days of education was achieved.**

We greatly appreciate parental support to reduce the total amount of days lost due to holidays. We are committed to working in partnership with you to enable your child to reach their academic targets and to support their social development. For this to happen we need to keep individual attendance as high as possible - we all need to play our part.

**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority**



# France Visit October 2015

Following a successful bid to the British Council, a party of students accompanied by Mrs Smith, Head of MFL and International Co-ordinator, visited College de la Villeneuve in St Andre les Vergers. The purpose of the visit was to compare the impact of the Industrial Revolution on the two countries and in particular focusing on the way it affected children at the time. The Atherstone students had a walking tour of Troyes when they were showed key industrial sites and were able to enjoy the hosiery museum where they found out about the invention of the knitting machines in Derby and how it affected Troyes. They were shocked to discover that children started to use the knitting machine at the age of 8. Later in the year the French school will be sending a party of students for a reciprocal visit to Atherstone.



## Shoes and Coats

Now that Winter is almost upon us, would all parents please ensure that students come to school in appropriate footwear and coats. Canvas or flimsy shoes are not allowed for school. The uniform guidance clearly states all black leather, sturdy shoes (No logo). We have really appreciated parents' support in ensuring students are properly prepared for school to date.

*Many thanks.*



The Queen Elizabeth  
Academy

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